

SPACE OBSERVER

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Khobar Towers remembered



Department of Defense photo

U.S. and Saudi military personnel survey the damage to Khobar Towers caused by the explosion of a fuel truck outside the northern fence of the facility on King Abdul Aziz Air Base near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, June 25, 1996. Monday marks five years since the terrorist attack that killed 19 U.S. service members and wounded hundreds more. See pages 10-11 for more on remembering Khobar Towers.

Advisory panel proposes sweeping personnel changes

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 15, 2001 -- The American public holds the military in high regard, but "the propensity to serve is very low," a high-level Pentagon adviser said June 13.

Retired Adm. David Jeremiah, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that the military needs a personnel system designed for "changing demographics" and better pay for mid-grade enlisted members.

Jeremiah led a far-reaching review of quality-of-life and morale issues at the request of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He briefly went over the panel's 60-plus recommendations in the Pentagon briefing.

He said the military has a personnel system with "no real structure, no strategy that deals with human resources in the (Defense) Department across the board, not just military but civilians and contractors as well."

"What you have is a system that is

basically 50 years old and has been 'band-aided' over the years to accommodate different stresses and strains on it," he said.

The current up-or-out system "works OK, ... but doesn't necessarily recognize the individual needs of the services," Jeremiah said. He said more flexible retirement systems, including allowing certain career fields to get some retirement benefits before 20 years and not forcing others out at 30 years, might be smart ways to do business.

"We need to know what kinds of skills and experience we're going to need for our transformed force. ... We may not want a 60-year-old infantryman ... but I'd be happy to have a 60-year-old information warrior," Jeremiah said. "He or she has probably 15 or 20 years of experience in the business, knows how to do it, (and) knows all the tricks of the trade."

"There are different needs out there," he said. "The one-size-fits-all (system) doesn't work any more." The admiral called a flexible retirement system "the most fundamental" recommendation to come out of his panel's review.

The QOL study is just one of what have come to be called "the Rumsfeld Reviews." It was begun to "stimulate the secretary's thinking" on the myriad issues relating to quality of life and morale.

Higher education levels in the enlisted force have made the pay gap for mid-level enlisted grades larger than the gap for other grades, Jeremiah said. He noted that nearly 80 percent of enlisted members have "some college" by the time they've been in the service 10 years.

"We find now many enlisted people with more than one bachelor's degree or master's degrees," the admiral said. "So it's a different force than the high school graduates -- if we were lucky and ahead of the sheriff -- that we got 50 years ago."

He said the gap results from DoD paying these ranks on the assumption they are high-school graduates only, not individuals with some college or with college degrees. He recommended President Bush's recent pledge of \$1.4 billion more in military pay raises be targeted to mid-grade enlisted service members.

See PERSONNEL, Page 4

Message from the 21st SW commander

Monday is a solemn day for the US Air Force. It is the anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing, which occurred 5 years ago at the military complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Over the past 5 years, it has become a date when many in the military take a moment to commemorate the sacrifices of those who lost their lives on the evening of June 25, 1996, and to say thanks to the people around us still serving our country after experiencing the horrific terrorist attack.

Nineteen Air Force members lost their lives on that day; hundreds others were injured; thousands more were directly affected because of the things they witnessed and experienced. There are no words that can change the events of that fateful day. All we can do is personally thank them for their sacrifice and professionally carry on their proud legacy.

So on Monday, I encourage each of you to stop for just a moment to reflect on those 19 lives that were lost June 25, 1996, and the lives of thousands that were changed forever. Also, remember those currently deployed around the world. They continue to provide outstanding service to our country.

Next week I'll be visiting our units in the Pacific. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you in a future edition of the Space Observer. I thank each of you for doing a superb job day in and day out.

Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler
21st Space Wing commander



Action line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line (556-7777 or by fax: 556-7848) is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice concerns over unsolved problems, share good ideas or provide some constructive criticism.

As a reminder, the Action Line is not a replacement for using your chain of command. Action Lines can help make the Peterson Complex and the wing a better place to live and work.



Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler

'Turn our focus to the journey ahead' says Secretary of the Air Force

To the men and women of the United States Air Force

I was recently sworn in as your 20th secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty airmen, guardsmen, reservists, and civilian employees. You have earned the admiration of our nation, the respect of the world, and the promise of a bright future. I already can tell you that you should be enormously proud of your achievements, from combat operations over Iraq and the Balkans to your recent validation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept. In the realm of aerospace power, you fly the best, train the best, and maintain the best. As you put it: "No One Comes Close."

We must now turn our focus to the journey ahead, and be responsive to this new century's emerging security environment. I look forward to piloting that journey with you. My focus is on developing new strategies for military aerospace power in this new millennium; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership and development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and developing our acquisition policies and processes to ensure innovation and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base over the long haul. My vision is an

aerospace future just as remarkable as your admired past: undeniable and global reconnaissance and strike superiority. My pledge to you is that I will serve the way you do ever day, worldwide — with integrity, selflessness and in earnest pursuit of excellence.

In 1963, President Kennedy said of military service: "I can imagine no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" That sentiment rings very true for me. As you know, I am deeply proud of my Navy career. But, today we are in a new century, with new opportunities, new challenges, new capabilities, and vastly different threats to the security of our great nation. In this century, men and women can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: "I serve in the United States Air Force." And now, I am proud to be able to say that too.

James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

Community thanks Air Force volunteers

I would like to personally thank all the personnel at Peterson and Schriever Air Force Bases for responding to the call for help in Ellicott. I want to further extend my appreciation to the commanding officers who allowed their people to spend time and energy in this clean-up effort, and for sending the heavy equipment that was used in Ellicott to remove the debris. Without the help from Air Force personnel, the clean-up would still continue. We are all very grateful for the tremendous response from all of you. I walked through the mess alone, but not alone long. Within 24 hours, we had the Air Force beside us. I was proud to work with all of you. My sincere Thanks.

Sincerely,
Sharon
Volunteer liason

I want to thank the 21st Communications Squadron for their help in Ellicott. Jason Carlson, Victor Cabezas, Richard Johnson, Angela Herron, John Dembiczak, Regina Price, Steven Weishaar, Owen Freeland, Daniel Lagace and Jeremy Lambert helped me pick up and stack tornado debris scattered over many acres. Jason Carlson's coordination and leadership were invaluable. The volunteers made my day and I won't forget their up-beat personalities. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Lundquist Anderson

A farewell to Don Poulin

The 21st Services Squadron lost one of its members, Donald L. Poulin, June 6, after a long battle with lung cancer.

Known as Uncle Don, he had been the Business Flight Chief for the past five years and worked hard to ensure that the Officers' Club, Enlisted Club, Silver Spruce Golf Course and Bowling Center were not only the best in Space Command, but also in the Air Force.

Don Poulin's military and civil service career spanned 37 years, beginning with his enlistment in the Air Force after graduating from high school.

While in the Air Force, Don achieved the rank of Major prior to his retirement after more than 27 years on active duty. During his years of service, he received many awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals.

While Don was a serious, hard-working individual, he also enjoyed a good laugh and a practical joke. The first time Don would meet one of the squadron's new employees, he would seem quite serious. But all you had to do when shaking hands with him is ask, "How are you?"

He would start to smile and reply, "Better than a sharp stick in the eye." That was his signature response whenever you asked about him.

The 21st Services Squadron will miss Don, his great sense of humor and playfulness, and his feisty, let's-do-it attitude.

Don will be remembered for his integrity, honor, and commitment to his family. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two sons, Scott and Steve, and five grandchildren.

He will be laid to rest with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. (Courtesy of 21st Services Squadron)



Flag Day honors the Stars and Stripes



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jorge Hinojos

Members of the base honor guard lower the flag as students from the Airman Leadership School salute during a retreat ceremony June 14 in front of the 21st Space Wing headquarters. The ceremony was held in recognition of Flag Day. The observance began in August 1949 when President Harry S. Truman proclaimed June 14 Flag Day. Since then the President proclaims the commemoration yearly, and encourages all Americans in the country to display the Stars and Stripes outside their homes and businesses.

News Briefs

Rocky Mountain Navy & Marine Corps Family picnic

The 11th annual Rocky Mountain Navy & Marine Corps family picnic is scheduled for Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Turkey Creek Recreation Center on Fort Carson. There will be music, family games, pony rides, dunking booths, food, drinks and more. The location is 8.3 miles south from Fort Carson's Gate B on State Road 115 to the entrance of Turkey Creek. Tickets are \$10 per family or \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. Make checks payable to Rocky Mountain CPOA.

D-Day invasion veterans eligible for medal

Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colorado Springs, is searching for veterans in the fifth district who participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Veterans eligible to receive the Jubilee of Liberty medal are those that participated in the invasion from June 5, 1944, to August 31, 1944. Presentation of the medals will take place July 28 at the Peterson Air Force Base officers' club at 10 a.m. The deadline for applications is June 30. Applications are available at the Retired Enlisted Association office (596-0927), 834 Emory Circle, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, call Jim Way at 591-9622 or Bill Stokes at 599-8633.

National Enrollment Database implemented throughout DoD

Senior Airman Barbra Mann
10th Medical Support Squadron

The National Enrollment Database was activated throughout the Department of Defense Monday, and will affect every military treatment facility. The database simplifies the process beneficiaries use to report eligibility changes.

The database links the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and the Composite Health Care System (the patient database) making updates simpler. Changes made in NED will update both DEERS and CHCS simultaneously, which saves members from having to make several stops to change information. Many members are unaware that CHCS and DEERS are two separate entities and so they fail to report status changes to both systems. When that happens, members and their families may suffer medical care delays. With NED, the delays should no longer occur.

As with any new system, problems may arise. The most common problem may be beneficiaries "dropping out" of CHCS. However, DEERS is the "gold standard" for eligibility information, so if DEERS shows members as

eligible for care, they will get care. DEERS will not change because of NED, but enrollees may drop out of CHCS due to discrepancies between information in DEERS and CHCS. Address, name, or duty status changes may cause this to occur. Every person who makes an appointment for military medical care will be checked against DEERS. Those with valid ID cards will still be seen. If your ID card is expired or within 30 days of expiration, you should renew it at the military personnel flight pass and ID section.

If you have had any duty status changes or changes to your family, you need to relay those changes to the MPF. If you don't, you may experience a delay obtaining medical care. Now that NED has been implemented, members will need to update changes at the MPF only. Hospital personnel will no longer be able to update addresses, birth dates, Social Security numbers or names.

There are contingency plans in place to alleviate any problems that may arise. Please contact the TRICARE Service Center at 264-5000 if you experience any problems regarding enrollment.

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Local soldiers first to wear Army's new black beret



U.S. Army photo

Ten soldiers from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Space Battle Laboratory located in Colorado Springs show off the Army's new black beret, which was adopted for regular wear. Lt. Col. Brad Baehr (center), chief of the Concepts and Initiatives Division, Battle Lab - Space Directorate, leads the formation in wearing the new headgear during a brief ceremony held in front of the U.S. Army Space Command Headquarters June 14. The ten soldiers are the first local soldiers to don the new black beret. The ceremony marks the first of many which will see all U. S. Army soldiers wearing the beret.

— PERSONNEL, From Page 1

Excess bases make upkeep nearly impossible. The solution: fewer bases and a commitment to maintain the ones we keep, Jeremiah said. He said old workspaces in disrepair hurt morale and make people in the military wonder what the country thinks of them.

The study also recognized the face of the military is changing. Jeremiah said some estimates see the military being much more heavily Hispanic in coming years and that DoD should work to recruit these individuals now so there can be more Hispanic leaders in future years.

High operations tempo and the increased use of Guard and Reserve forces were also noted as quality-of-life problem areas. "This is a world in which we're not at war and we're not at peace," Jeremiah said. "The peace that we're in is the absence of major war, but it isn't peace as we know it, and it demands an enormous amount of activity on the part of the military members in the force."

Housing is one area DoD can make significant improvements in a relatively short amount of time -- and the department should do just that, Jeremiah stressed. The military needs "better housing sooner," he said.

AUTODIN message system closes June 30

By direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, June 30 Peterson will no longer be allowed to transmit general service AUTODIN messages. All GENSER organizational

messages must be sent via the defense messaging system.

The AUTODIN closure does not include emergency action messages, special category messages, caveated mes-

sages, and data pattern traffic. These types of messages will continue to be transmitted via AUTODIN until the projected date in fiscal year 2002. At that time, DMS will be ready to manage such messages.

The AUTODIN closure will affect unclassified, secret, and top secret messages. The 21st Communications Squadron is working to ensure that the change from AUTODIN to DMS will have no adverse affect on mission

accomplishment. To ensure there is no mission impact, active involvement from every organization with a requirement to send and/or receive official organizational messages is needed.

Each unit's fortezza responsible officer is the point of contact and action officer for getting the unit DMS-capable. It is critical that a trained FRO in each organization is available to process account and fortezza card requests.

A separate account is required for each classification level, so units with requirements to send and/or receive any classification of GENSER message traffic must take action immediately to ensure that the mission will not be affected June 30. Contact your FRO for details, or 1st Lt Ernesto Chavez, 21st Communications Squadron, at 556-6552.

(Courtesy of the 21st Communications Squadron)



Detachment 3, 18th SPSS: Space tracking from para-

Maui. Just the mention of the name brings to mind images of sunny beaches, tropical plants and luaus. There's no doubt Maui can be a paradise. It's also home to Detachment 3, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron.

Located atop a dormant volcano, 10,000 feet above the white sand and blue ocean, the detachment is one of three that operate the ground-based electro-optical deep-space surveillance system.

The mission is to gather time, elevation and azimuth data on satellites in orbit around the earth. That information enables members to accurately predict the satellites' orbits. GEODSS is used to ensure satellites remain stable, don't crash into other satellites and aren't confused as hostile missiles. GEODSS operators also collect information about the brightness of sunlight reflecting off satellites. This radiometric data is used for space object identification.

The detachment responds to tasks from the 1st Command and Control Squadron. Those tasks are routed through the 18th SPSS, optimized for most of the optical sensors in the space surveillance network, and then transmitted to the squadron's four detachments.

Although capable of tracking objects in low orbit, the detachment's one-meter, electro-optical telescopes are optimized to track objects in mid- and deep-space orbits, out to a range of about 40,000 kilometers. The telescopes are sensitive enough to track a soccer ball in a geo-synchronous orbit.

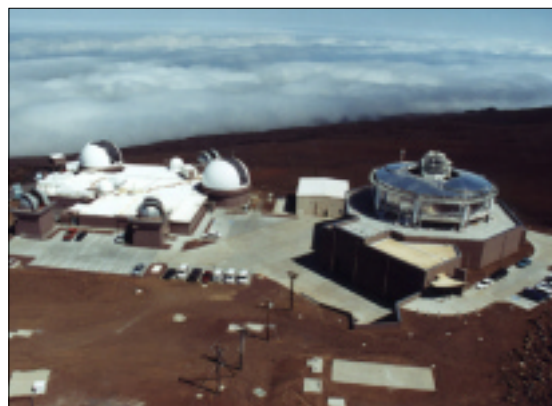
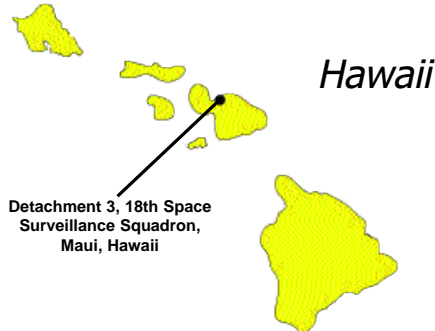
The observatory site on Maui has a blend of operations and research missions that make it one of the unique in the United

States Air Force. Scientists from the Air Force Research Laboratory work to improve optical surveillance and reconnaissance sensors, control laser beams passing through the atmosphere and push the state-of-the-art in adaptive optics. The scientists work alongside the operators who respond to operational taskings.

Northrop Grumman contractors do all detachment operations and maintenance. The two military members primarily do quality assurance evaluations.

Since there are fewer than 20 active duty Air Force members on the island, detachment personnel, along with members of the co-located Air Force Research Laboratory detachment, also represent the Air Force at various business and political events around the island, and in cooperative programs with local schools.

Living without normal base support functions presents many challenges. Detachment members, with a lot of support from the 21st Space Wing and 18th SPSS, administer all detachment programs, such as budgeting, leave authorization and briefing of distinguished visitors. The mission doesn't leave much time for enjoying the Maui paradise. But when the work is done, the beach isn't far away. (Courtesy of Det. 3, 18th SPSS)



Courtesy photo

Aerial view of Detachment 3, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron, located on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

Lightning safety important to consider during 101 Critical Days of Summer

This week was designated Lightning Safety Awareness Week by the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the United States, an average of 73 people are killed each year by lightning. That's more than the annual number of people killed by tornadoes or hurricanes. Many more are struck but survive.

Being outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. It puts you and your loved ones at increased and unnecessary risk.

When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark clouds are observed, quickly move indoors or into a hard-topped vehicle and remain there until well after the lightning storm ends.

Listen to forecasts and warnings from your local National Weather Service Office through NOAA Weather Radio and other sources. If lightning storms are forecast, have in mind an alternate plan for the day's activities or know where you

can take cover quickly.

The lightning season in the United States corresponds closely with the traditional summer vacation. Holiday periods during the summer, such as the Fourth of July, are historically among the most deadly.

Throughout the summer, a lot more people are exposed to the deadly effects of lightning in locations such as a beach, golf course, mountains, or a ball field.

During the summer lightning season, outdoor jobs such as those in construction and agriculture, and outdoor chores such as lawn mowing or house painting put those workers in danger.

Although anywhere outdoors involves risk during a lightning storm, certain locations are more vulnerable than others. These include areas near water, trees, vehicles or planes, on high places, and in the open.

A particularly dangerous situation is when people congregate, such as at a sporting event or concert. The potential for multiple casualties in a



closely gathered group is great.

A single lightning strike can kill several people who are either in physical contact with one another or are in close enough proximity that the strike can spread out over the ground. This includes spectators sitting on the same bleacher seat or football players in a huddle.

School children are particularly vulnerable when at recess, band, football and baseball practice, and walking in groups to and from school.

Becoming familiar with outdoor lightning safety rules can save your life or that of a loved one.

To learn more about lightning safety go to www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

(Information courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)



Lightning Safety Rules:

1. Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building or hard-topped, all-metal vehicle.
2. Do not take shelter under a tree.
3. Avoid being the tallest object in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, crouch on the balls of your feet in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.
4. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.
5. Get out of the water, off the beach and out of small boats. If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center of the boat away from metal hardware.
6. Avoid standing in puddles, even if wearing rubber boots.
7. Avoid open spaces, wire fences, metal clothes lines, exposed sheds and electrically conductive elevated objects.
8. Do not use metal objects like golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets and tools or lean against vehicles.
9. Do not work on fences, telephone or power lines, pipelines, or steel fabrications.
10. Avoid congregating in groups. Do not hold hands with others and space yourself several yards from one another.

World's largest air and missile exercise kicks off



Photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Etscheidt

Senior Airman Matthew Ford, an F-15C crew chief with the 71st Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., checks the oil June 14 on an F-15 after the pilot and the aircraft returned from a training mission in preparation for Exercise Roving Sands. The exercise is taking place in and around Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., from June 15 to 24.

FORT BLISS, Texas — More than 15,000 people from all branches of the U.S. armed forces, as well as Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Canada are participating in Roving Sands, the world's largest joint theater air and missile defense exercise.

The exercise is taking place in and around Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., June 15-24.

Roving Sands is a joint service theater air and missile defense field training exercise

designed to train forces from all four services and multinational air defense and aircraft. A common computer-driven scenario helps to hone in skills on joint theater air and missile defense and joint tactical air operations.

Roving Sands melds command, control, communications and computer elements, air defense artillery, and the aircraft of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and multinational forces into a joint integrated air defense system.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

AFSPC announces new communications award

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A new annual award for communications excellence was recently handed out at Air Force Space Command Headquarters.

The Lt. Gen. Winston D. Powers Award for Best Small Communications Unit in AFSPC went to the 30th Communications Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. The award, previously just a plaque, has been given out for several years, but this is the first year that it has been given a name and is attached to a larger memento.

Powers was the first head of the Space Communications Division at its inception in 1983, becoming the predecessor to a long line of AFSPC directors of communications and information.

The current director, Brig. Gen. Dale Meyerrose, thinks the new trophy is due.

"The award has been around but with no name and no heritage attached to it," he said. "We wanted to link our heritage to where we came from and where we're going."

Powers is credited with upgrading the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center communications and integrating the tactical warning and attack assessment assets after some anomalies in the late 1970s and '80s that generated false missile attack indications. That system is still being used at the mountain.

Meyerrose added that since the majority of the units compete in this category instead of the large unit category, the honor is the most sought.

The 30th CS won the hefty award for its work on the Western Range, where missiles and rockets are launched over the Pacific Ocean. Its work in integration, sustainment, and support of base and range communication and information issues, earned it the right to the new trophy, Meyerrose said.

The unit will be AFSPC's nominee for the Air Force-level award, the Lt. Gen. Harold Grant Award. *(Courtesy AFSPC Public Affairs)*

Twins bid farewell after 20 years side by side

By Brandi Denham
21st SW Public Affairs

Can you imagine having a bond so tight with someone that you felt like together you made a whole? Then one day you find out that the other half of you would be leaving you. These two women can.

The two women are identical twins, Airmen 1st Class Romonica and Veronica Owens. The twins have been together all 20 years of their lives. The twins decided to enlist in September 1999, and they went through basic training; technical training and even got their first assignment together.

According to the twins, it has always been a lingering thought in the back of their minds that someday they would be split up. Now that thought is a reality and Romonica will leave her sister for a new assignment at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The two have mixed emotions about the split up.

"The toughest part about leaving will be leaving my best friend," said Romonica. "She made me feel important, I knew I always had somebody to depend on."

According to the twins they'll also miss the help and the advice you

get from having your sister right there with you. The girls even share the same suite in the dormitory.

"It was nice having my sister right next to me. I didn't have to worry about little things like asking her to turn her music down, because I knew she would," said Romonica.

On the other hand the two feel the time apart will be good for them even if they don't like being separated.

"With Romonica gone I hope to gain more independence" said Veronica.

According to Romonica, she is excited about going to Germany. "One of my main goals for entering the air force was travel and education."

While in Germany she plans to obtain her degree in music or computers. Veronica plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

Although they are saying goodbye, they are confident it won't be permanent.

The twins hope they may have a chance to be together again as singers with The U.S. Air Force Band of the Rockies, if auditions go well.

According to Romonica and Veronica although the two will be apart, they've established a bond over the 20 years that will never break, because it's a bond of the heart.



Photo by Brandi Denham

Romonica Owens (right) and sister Veronica pause for a photo during out-processing. The twins have been together through basic training, technical school and their first duty assignment here at Peterson, but must now bid each other farewell as Romonica travels to a new assignment at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Star Performer



NAME: Senior Airman Theresa R. Hardy
UNIT: 20th Space Surveillance Squadron
JOB TITLE: Space surveillance crew chief
TIME IN SERVICE: six years
HOMETOWN: Madrid, Spain
ABOUT HARDY:

Senior Airman Theresa Hardy is a space surveillance crew chief operating the AN/FPS-85 phased-array radar located at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. She leads junior enlisted space operators to detect, track and identify over 80 percent of all man-made objects in space. In addition to this crew function,

Hardy is a full-time staff member of her squadron's operations support flight, advising the flight commander and operations officer on issues ranging from radar software development to operations procedural changes.

Her technical skills and hard work paid off when she was selected to represent her wing at Guardian Challenge 2001, the Air Force's only space and missile competition. Hardy and the rest of the 21st Space Wing team won the Aldridge Trophy as the "best space operations wing" in the Air Force.

Hardy cross-trained into space operations from the EGRESS career field, where she worked on the highly explosive ejection systems for fighter aircraft. She was trained at Keesler AFB, Miss., and Sheppard AFB, Texas, before being stationed at Cannon AFB, N.M., and then Eglin AFB, Fla. She has worked on the EF/F-111, F-15, and F-16 aircraft. She then went to Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and trained in active space surveillance. Theresa excelled once again at Airman Leadership School where she was awarded Distinguished Graduate.

Theresa was born in

Madrid, Spain, while her father worked for the Department of Defense.

Growing up, she moved all over Europe with her family, and completed high school in Stuttgart, Germany. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Ryan Hardy, is an EGRESS journeyman and is stationed at Osan AB, Korea supporting the 51st Maintenance Squadron.

They have two children, Amber, 7, and Tiffani, 4. When she is not working, Theresa spends as much time with her children as she can, especially since Ryan is away.

Active in the community, Hardy participates in the Relay for Life, a local fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. She's also a Girl Scout assistant troop leader, a CPR instructor, and a volunteer at the Bob Hope Village where she helps renovate facilities for the elderly. In addition, she volunteers to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity and helps clean beaches in Florida each spring.

Theresa's immediate plans are to improve her space operations skills and finish her Community College of the Air Force degree, then her bachelor's degree.

Wing recognizes Levitow winner

Senior Airman Adriaan A. Kendall, 10th Space Warning Squadron missile warning and space surveillance crew chief, completed Airman Leadership School at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N. D., where he earned the John L. Levitow Award for excellence as a leader and a scholar. Kendall also earned the Academic Achievement Award for the highest class average, and he was also one of three nominees for the Leadership Award.

***Congratulations!***

The 21st Operations Group Generator Replacement Team was selected as May's Gold Knight Award winner.



The Air Force IDEA Program announces the Team 21 award recipients for May

Tamara Martin, 21st Contracting Squadron, was awarded \$200 for her electronic interactive contract file idea and Brian Gibson, 302nd Maintenance Squadron, was awarded \$771 for his idea to protect C-130 main landing gear struts from rocks.

Khobar Tower

Peterson chaplain remembers the the terrorist that killed 19 and wounded hundreds five year.

By Capt Brenda Campbell
21st SW Public Affairs

"It was a defining moment in my life and ministry," said Lt. Col. Dennis Aleson, 21st Space Wing chaplain.

Aleson was the wing chaplain at Khobar Towers on June 25, 1996, the day 19 American servicemen lost their lives in the terrorist attack a U.S. military dormitory in Saudi Arabia.

On that day, "there was a deafening boom, a blast-wave, the sound of shattered glass flying everywhere, sudden darkness, and then a short-lived deathly silence," he said.

"There are events in your life where your beliefs are called into question, but at no other time do you rely on your spiritual resources as you do when tragedy strikes."

"We all read about terrorist incidents, but you never think you will be facing it. It's like a bad dream and you are in the middle," said Aleson. "It all has a very surreal feel to it."

Aleson had just completed a full day of ministry before the bomb exploded at about 10 p.m. Immediately after, he was up for

another three days providing support and comfort to all personnel.

"Our task seemed almost overwhelming because the needs were everywhere. There were injuries by the hundreds, fear, panic, shock . . . the end of life for 19 of our friends and co-workers," he said.

Medical triage was started at the co-located Air Force and Army clinic. The most serious injuries were treated inside the clinics, while hundreds of litters lined the ground outside with people administering self aide and buddy care.

"We were there, doing spiritual, emotional triage, helping bear litters, passing out bottled water, and simply being part of the caregiving team," Aleson said.

"What I discovered, and what others have discovered in the past, is the adrenaline flows and people do what needs to be done. You get through the experience. You discover there is a power and a strength that pulls you through."

Just 26 hours after the bombing, Aleson stood with the commander on the flightline as the 19 victims were loaded onto a C-5 cargo

plane for transport home to American soil at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

"Several hundred people were gathered in solemn formation. We were sending our friends and co-workers back home with all the honor and dignity we could bestow upon them in our planeside ceremonies."

Aleson was able to rotate out of Saudi Arabia on schedule, 10 days after the bombing, but the events which occurred the night

of the 25th, and the days with him.

"I felt the greatest er was working with the mo victims, because I knew t were in a better place."

"I grieved for the liv tragedy - the spouses, chi other loved ones and frien ones who had lost the mo

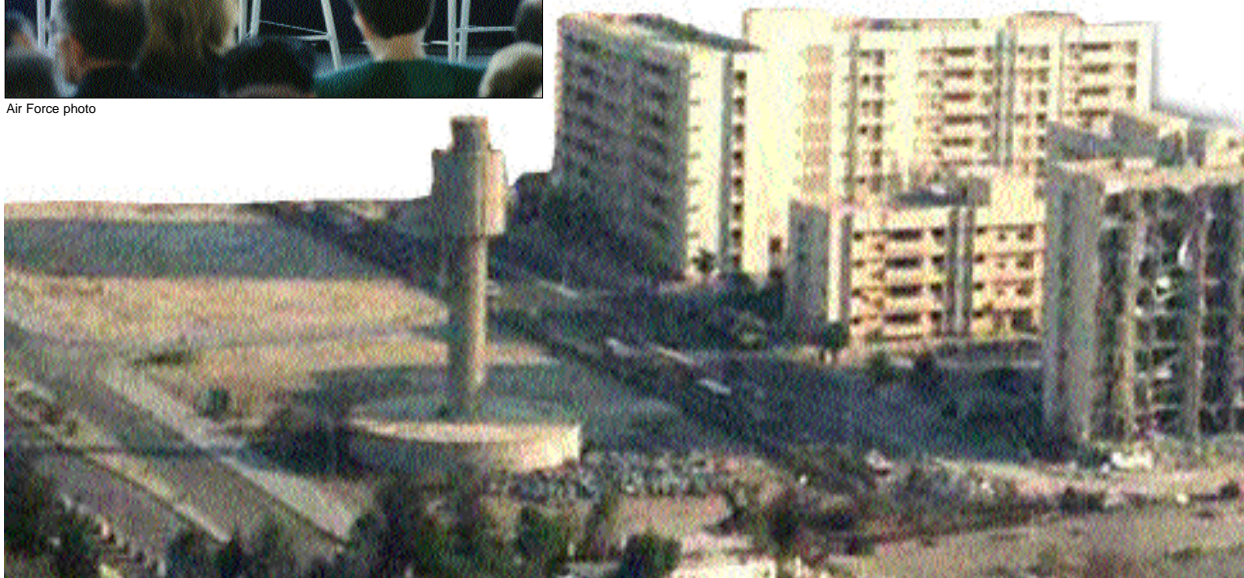


Air Force photo

Wreaths bearing the names of the airmen killed in the bombing were posted in honor of the victims during a memorial service held June 30, 1996, at Eglin, Air Force Base, Fla.



Honor guard members carry the casket of an Air Force member a



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Air Force photo

A General salutes the casket of an airman after pinning the purple heart medal on it. Nineteen service members were killed in the June 25, 1996 terrorist attack.



Air Force photo

Right: Wounded service members return to the U.S. More than 200 people were injured in the Khobar Towers explosion.



Air Force photo

after its arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del.



Department of Defense photo

U.S. and Saudi military personnel peer into the crater caused by the explosion of a fuel truck outside the northern fence of Khobar Towers near King Abdul Aziz Air Base near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, June 25, 1996.



News

FAMILY CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITY: Family Child Care is an Air Force program that allows military spouses an opportunity to supplement their family's income while caring for their own children in their licensed FCC home. Military spouses can provide child care for other families' children for a total of more than 10 hours a week, on a regular basis. They must be licensed to provide care in on-base quarters. If you are interested in learning more about this career option and its professional development opportunities, call the FCC office at 556-4322.

CLINIC WEEKEND HOURS: The USAFA family practice clinic and pharmacy will open on weekends. Current hours are Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sundays, 1-4:30 p.m. The hours will change July 7 to Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sundays, 8 a.m.-noon. For appointments, call 333-CARE (2273). This is the same number used for active duty sick call appointments.

CADET SPONSORSHIP: The Air Force Academy's sponsorship program needs potential sponsors. Sponsor families help newly appointed cadets adjust to the area and to school. Sponsors can be active duty or retired military, or civilians. Active duty and retired military sponsors must be at least an E-7 or O-3 and above. Federal civilian employees must be GS-7 or above. Members of the surrounding communities may also become sponsors by submitting three letters: one letter with family background information and two letters of recommendation from either a work, neighborhood or community source. All three letters must be submitted to Cadet Sponsorship Program, 2302 Cadet Drive, Suite 12, USAFA, CO 80840. For more information, call Dennis Mitchell or Mary Bice at 333-2727 or 333-3477.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP: Did you know that all U.S. citizens except federally employed civilians are eligible to apply for the White House Fellowship program? There are no restrictions for age, sex, race, or physical requirements. This program seeks to draw exceptionally promising people from throughout the nation, providing first-hand experience in the process of governing our nation. Annually, 11 to 19 U.S. citizens are selected to work full-time for one year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the president. Military personnel are encouraged to apply as this program does enhance executive development. Call Military Personnel Flight customer service at 556-7377 for more information.

YMCA CAMP: The Armed Services YMCA will hold a day camp Aug. 10-16 for military children ages 5-7. The day camp hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Children will experience field trips, outdoor adventures, arts and crafts, games and more. The cost is \$25. For more information, call 393-9620, extension 130.

Civilian Personnel Flight

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT SERVICE DAY: Representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, AETNA U.S. Healthcare, Government Employees Health Association, Pacificare of Colorado and Kaiser Permanente will be available to meet with Peterson Complex civilian employees to discuss questions or concerns regarding health insurance coverage. Appointments are not required. Representatives will be available Wednesday in the civilian personnel office training room from 9-10:30 a.m. For more information, call Beverly Sagapolutele, 556-7073.

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS: The Civilian Personnel Flight will host open forum discussions for all Peterson Complex civilian employees and supervisors of civilians at the officers' club ballroom June 28, 8-10 a.m., and 2-4 p.m. All Peterson Complex civilian employees and supervisors are encouraged to attend. Seating will be first come, first served, with a maximum of 200 seats available. Discussion topics will be "Family Friendly Programs" including provisions of the family medical leave act, leave without pay entitlements, family care/bereavement provisions, absence for child birth or infant care, voluntary leave transfer program provisions and "on-line" sources for civilian personnel program information. The purpose of the open forum discussion is to provide updates on the various leave program entitlements and provisions, as well as provide a handout containing information source references. For more information, call Bill Bartlow at 556-6557 or Theresa Dickson at 556-9231.

Family Support Center 556-6141

Classes are held in the family support center classroom, 135 Dover Street, Building 350, Room 1016, unless otherwise specified. Registration is required for all FSC classes. To register, call the FSC at 556-6141 or stop by the FSC classroom.

JOB ORIENTATION: For an overview of the local job market and a look at how family support can help with your job search, sign up for this orientation offered June 28, 1-2:30 p.m.

RESUME REVIEW CLASS: There will be a resume writing class on Tuesday, 9-11 a.m. To take full advantage of this class you must bring a draft copy of your resume. The employment team will coach you on ways to improve your product in order to secure the job you have targeted.

MARKETING YOURSELF FOR A SECOND CAREER: This is a free, two-hour professional lecture for officers and senior non-commissioned officers who plan to leave the service within the next five years. The event is scheduled for Monday, 9-11:30 a.m., at the enlisted club. Spouses are also invited. Learn about the challenge of finding a job, perceptions civilian employers have of military personnel, a plan for your job search, writing resume cover letters, and broadcast letters, as well as how employers read your resume, how to network and penetrate the hidden job market, prepare for and conduct a successful interview, salary negotiations and benefit packages, and how to deal with rejection.

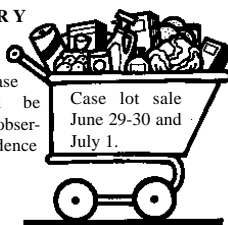
FINANCIAL BRIEFINGS: There will be a briefing covering various financial topics July 2, 1-4 p.m. This briefing is for Peterson Air Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station personnel and will focus on the new military Thrift Savings Plan, Career Status Bonus, REDUX, and retirement planning.

INVESTMENT SEMINARS: There will be investment seminars July 17 and 19, 1-4 p.m. The topics of discussion will be understanding mutual funds and exchange traded funds, taxes, expense ratios, loads and no loads. The instructor will be Professor James Agresta. The seminar will be held in Building 350, Suite 107. Call 556-6141 to register.

Commissary

COMMISSARY CLOSED JULY 4:

The Peterson Air Force Base Commissary will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



Youth Center 556-7220

NIGHT HOOPS: Night basketball for 13-18-year-olds is Friday, 6-9 p.m., at the fitness center on court two. For more information, call the youth center.

YOUTH BASEBALL: There will be youth baseball Saturday and June 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

MARTIAL ARTS: There will be martial arts Tuesday and Thursday, 5-7:30 p.m.

TRIP TO ELITCH GARDENS: There will be a teen trip to Elitch Gardens Saturday. It is limited to 12 teens; permission slips are required. The cost is \$20.

SKY SOX GAME: There will be a trip to Sky Sox baseball game on Thursday. The trip is limited to 5-12 teens. The cost is \$7. Call 556-7220 for details.

Community Activities Center 556-7671

MOUNT RUSHMORE TRIP: Take a trip to see Mount Rushmore, S.D., and other national historical sites Thursday thru Sunday. See Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood, Crazy Horse Monument, Custer State Park and Sylvan Lake. The cost is \$275 per person (prices subject to change) and travelers must register by Monday. Call the CAC at 556-1733 to register and for more information.



Education Center 556-4064

AIR WAR COLLEGE: Recruiting for the Air War College nonresident studies seminar program is now underway. This is an ideal way to complete senior Professional Military Education, combining self-study with a formal, semi-structured meeting environment highly conducive to learning. Seminars are scheduled to start in early August and will run until June 2002. The program is open to active duty, guard, and reserve colonels, lieutenant colonels, and lieutenant colonel selectees (or their equivalent) of any component of the U.S. armed forces and civilian employees (GS/GM-13 or above). Applications for enrollment into the seminar program are now being accepted. To enroll, an individual must use the application form available at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/enrolp-pr.htm. Sign up now or you will have to wait until August 2002 for the next seminar academic year to begin. Contact Mike Madsen at 556-7738.

AIR COMMAND and STAFF COLLEGE: The Air Command and Staff College seminar will start in August. Majors or major selects from all services are eligible to enroll as well GS-11s and above. Application forms may be picked up at the education center. After Tuesday, the education office will start putting the enrollments into the base level personnel management system which flows to Air University. Course material will be mailed directly to the student once the enrollment has been processed. The material will consist of a multimedia CD-ROM and course books. Seminars meet for approximately 10.5 months, 3 hours per week. It should be noted that the number of missed sessions for each student is no longer a factor and attendance will not be tracked or recorded. Call Lisa Simon at 556-7392.

Pre-marital counseling can help pave the road to marital

**By Tech. Sgt.
Christopher Feister**
721st Support Group

So you both decided you want to get married. You found that special person you want to spend the rest of your life with. But, do you know if you are emotionally and financially prepared for it? Do you know if the love you have for each other will last through life's ups and downs?

Let me give you some advice that might help you and your future spouse handle the bumps along life's road. To head you into the right direction, how about attending pre-marital counseling?

Pre-marital counseling can help you assess what it takes to build a strong, happy, healthy marriage. To sign up, contact the base chaplain's office, a local church or a counseling center such as the life skills center or family support center.

What areas are covered during pre-marital counseling? Let's talk about the areas I found were the most beneficial to me: eligibility, communication and conflict resolution.

First, your counselor will ask some hard but honest questions to help you determine whether or not you should marry in the first place, or if you should marry each other. The counselor will assess compatibility in the relationship and will also let you know if he thinks you are marrying too quickly.

Once those issues are addressed, your counselor will help you identify possible warning signs. Here are some warning signs that indicate you should think twice before pursuing marriage:

Your partner drank heavily three times in the past three weeks.

Your partner says, "I can't live without you," or "My life has no meaning without you."

This is a sign of dependency.

You have both developed a pattern of quarreling, seriously irritating or physically abusing each other.

Your financial situation is uncertain.

If you passed "the test" with flying colors, does that mean you are ready to take the plunge? If so, how will you navigate through life together?

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of communication. It is the lifeblood of marriage. It includes how we express our appreciation and concern for each other, and it is the link to building and sharing a relationship. It can pull you toward mutual understanding, or drive you apart into distrust and disillusionment.

A counselor can help you identify the emotional impact your words have and the hidden meaning behind them.

Ultimately, you may learn that what you say is often not as important as how you say it.

With guidance, you can learn to reach deeper levels of communication and go beyond the fact-finding level to the feeling/needing level where mutual trust and security are established. To get there, you must hone your listening skills and verbal tools to productively resolve conflicts.

Every couple, some day, will need to work out personal conflicts. Your counselor can help you identify healthy-vs-unhealthy ways to deal with them. One popular communi-

cation practice you may learn is the speaker-to-listener approach. Using this approach, you will learn to exchange thoughts and feelings without inhibition, which will enable you to identify issues and work together to resolve them.

Counseling will also help you avoid destructive, unhealthy ways of dealing with conflict, such as criticism, contempt, defensiveness, stonewalling and withdrawal.

There are many landmines on the road to marital harmony, and it takes work to achieve it. Each partner must give 100 percent effort to stay and grow together. But, the rewards of building a healthy, happy marriage by far outweigh the struggles.

Differences between military and civilian spouses highlighted

By Colonel Steven Arrington
17th Training Wing vice commander

GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too. The funny thing about it is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there really a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

-Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots.

-Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent a house, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

-Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime.

-Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible, and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

-Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used.

-Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

-Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive.

-Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or in the case of a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

-Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check to get the hose reconnected.

-Military spouses will fix it themselves.

—SPOUSE, From Page 13

- Other spouses get use to saying hello to friends they see all the time.
- Military spouses get use to saying good-bye to friends made in the last two years.
- Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year.
- Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted in another new school next year, and whether that school will be the worst in the city ... again.
- Other spouses can count on spouse participation on special events- birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child.
- Military spouses only count on each other because they realize that the flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.
- Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home.
- Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts, and they never go away.
- Other spouses worry about being late for

Mom's Thanksgiving dinner.

-Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for Dad's funeral.

-And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says, "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been 60 today."

-A military spouse is the lady with the card, and the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are, but I will say there is a difference and our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses.

And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their uniformed husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher.

Dying in service to our country isn't near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

God bless our military spouses for all they freely give, and God bless America.

30 reasons to stay

By Capt. Matteo Martemucci
51st Operations Support Squadron

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea – I'm going to tell you why I'll never willingly leave this great Air Force.

A few weeks ago, my first child was born, more than 8,000 miles away in Virginia. He was born on the living room floor of our house, a month early, to the great surprise of his mother and me. Both mom and baby are doing very well, and now I get to bask in the pride and excitement of being a new father.

After the excitement was over, I had time to analyze the sequence of events. I realized I was part of something very special, something I probably wouldn't find outside the warm walls of this military family.

At 2:30 a.m., my wife, eight months pregnant and alone at home, awoke to feelings of pain. Her first instinct was to call a close friend, also a military spouse. Within minutes, Jean, an Army major's wife from nearby Fort Monroe, Va., arrived.

Jean realized my wife was in advanced labor and called an ambulance. She also called Monica, a friend and Air Force major stationed with my wife at Langley Air Force Base, Va. With the help of these two friends and some local emergency medical technicians, my wife delivered a healthy boy in our living room. Jean and Monica are two reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

Monica knew I was in Korea and immediately contacted the command post at Langley. They connected her to the Osan Air Base command post and explained the situation. On a hunch, Monica told them where I might be and, without hesitation, the Osan command post tracked me down at the base library. I may be wrong, but hunting down a captain to inform him of the birth of his son is probably not in the command post controller's job description. But they did it without even blinking. They're two more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

After being connected to my wife and being assured everyone was all right, I called my flight commander to tell him the news. Before I even asked, he contacted our squadron commander and they approved my leave and offered to help get me home. They, too, are reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

I needed to get home on the next flight to the states, and that meant getting on the Kimpo International Airport shuttle bus at 6 a.m. But I needed leave paperwork to get off the peninsula. My first sergeant, no stranger to late phone calls, jumped into action. He made one phone call and the orderly room NCO in charge was in her car heading to work to personally type up the necessary papers. With a smile on her face and hearty congratulations, she handed me my leave papers and disappeared into the freezing winter night. These are two more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

The whole time during my long series of flights home, my wife had a close network of military friends who stayed with her. Even though her husband and family were far away, from the moment she made that first and only phone call, she was never alone. These were all people who understood the unique situation of our shared military lifestyle. They immediately jumped in to help, as Air Force families often do.

Less than 36 hours after I received the first phone call, I was home with my new family. Waiting for me were flowers from my flight and reassuring e-mails that my duties and responsibilities were being handled in my absence. The people in my flight are 22 more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

If I were working for some big faceless corporation, I wonder if I'd even have my boss's home phone number, let alone an entire organization that would jump up in the middle of the night to help a fellow airman.

Could I make more money working for a major corporation? Absolutely. Would the above events have happened if I worked for one? I doubt it. I promise you, the last thing on my mind that night, as I boarded the plane to meet my new son, was the size of my paycheck.

Would I trade my part in this military family for a few extra bucks? Never.

I've shared 30 reasons why I'd never voluntarily leave our Air Force, and yet these reasons come from only one single experience. I could fill this story with hundreds of other reasons, and they'd all be Air Force people like these, whom my wife and I are proud to call family.



Photo by Brandi Denham

Fast feet

Victor Cabezas (right), 21st Communications Squadron, races for the ball against a member of the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron during intramural action Wednesday. The 21st CS won the game 4-2, keeping a perfect record as the only undefeated team in the league.

Shuffleboard tournament

There will be a shuffle board tournament June 27-29. There is no entry fee.

Participants must sign up by Monday. Call Senior Airman Bonnie Miller at 556-1515 to sign up.



Sports

Intramural softball standings

As of June 19

Thursday co-ed league

	Wins	Losses
1. 21 WS	3	0
2. HQ AFSPC	2	0
3. 21 CES	1	2
4. 10 MDG	0	2
4. Team Co	0	2



Tuesday recreation league

	Wins	Losses
1. AFSPC	4	0
1. HQ AF/SC	4	0
3. 21 CES	2	1
3. 721 SFS	2	1
5. 721 COM	2	2
5. 721 CES	2	2
5. Det 4	2	2
5. 84 ALF	2	2
9. 21 OSS	1	2
9. 21 MSS	1	2
11. HQ AF/BA	0	2
12. 21 SFS	0	4
12. J5	0	4

Wednesday recreation league

	Wins	Losses
1. 10 MDG	6	0
2. AFMC	5	0
3. 11 SWS	5	1
4. J2	4	1
5. 21SFS	4	2
5. 21SW	4	2
5. 1CACS	4	2
8. NORAD	2	4
8. HQ AF/SC	2	4
8. 21 CS	2	4
11. 21SVS	1	4
11. 302	1	4
11. ARMY	1	4
14. HQAFSPC	1	5
15. 76 SPCS	0	5

